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what is advent?

First off, Advent is *NOT* Christmas. Advent comes before Christmas, and both are separate and distinct liturgical seasons.

What's a liturgical season? Liturgical seasons are a way that Catholics break up the calendar year in order to help us understand and wonder about the life of Jesus. Each season – there are six – focuses on a different aspect of Jesus' life and works.

So, which part of Jesus' life does Advent focus on?

Here we can turn to the 39th paragraph of the General Norms for the Calendar and the Liturgical Year for an answer:

"Advent has a twofold character: As a season to **prepare** for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us is remembered; As a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation."

Jesus is coming. That's what Advent is all about. And not just the coming we think of – you know, the one with the manger and the donkeys and the star.

He's also coming at the end of time. And, while the end of time usually conjures images of a scene out of the movie *Armageddon*, that coming is a good thing, too.

When is Advent?

In 2019, Advent will begin on Sunday, December 1, and end on Tuesday, December 24. In general, Advent begins on the Sunday on or closest to November 30, and ends on the evening of December 24.



In terms of the twofold character of Advent, it is around December 17 when we begin turning to Jesus' birth in particular. On this date the Gospel readings turn towards Jesus' first coming, beginning with the genealogy of Jesus from Matthew 1.

What is the definition of Advent?

The word Advent comes from the Latin "advenire" which means "to come to." Makes sense given that we are remembering Jesus' coming to us.

Merriam-Webster says it means, "a coming into being or use," so they pretty much agree.



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What are some of the most common Advent traditions?

Let the fun begin. When it comes to Advent, the Church has all the beauty and joy you could hope for, including:

COLORS!

"Violet" is the liturgical color for the first, second and fourth Sundays of Advent and "rose" is the liturgical color for the third Sunday of Advent, otherwise known as Gaudete Sunday.

Gaudete Sunday – Gaudete is the Latin word for "rejoice," and this Sunday is so called because of the entrance antiphon of the Mass, "Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice!"

Advent Wreath – perhaps the most well-known
Advent tradition, an Advent wreath is essentially
four candles placed in a circular wreath or other
setting. The candles usually correspond with
the liturgical colors and a family can light the
candles each night as they sit down for family
dinner or prayer.

Advent Calendars – perhaps the most beloved Advent tradition, an Advent calendar is another way to count

down the days to Christmas. Traditionally, Advent calendars were made of wood and only sometimes featured hidden compartments that stowed away things like small candies or coins. Today you can get advent calendars filled with everything from chocolate to Lego toys, themed socks, or even diamond jewelry. Check out this great Advent calendar filled with family activities put together by the USCCB.

Advent Candle – perhaps the least well-known Advent traditions is the Advent candle. The Advent Candle has equal markings down the side, counting down the days to Christmas. Light it during prayer time each night and watch the candle disappear each evening. You can buy one online, or make one with your family!

The Nativity Scene – perhaps the most important of Advent traditions is the Nativity scene. A simple representation of the holy family for all to see.

Make sure you check out how to get creative with your nativity.

Going to partake in one of these Advent traditions? How about all of them? Regardless, make sure you check out these blessings from the USCCB for your Advent wreath, Christmas tree, or Nativity scene.

- Blessing of the Advent Wreath
- Blessing of the Christmas Tree
- Blessing of the Nativity





You'll probably notice that your Church also has an Advent wreath, and that Mass will begin with the lighting of that Sunday's candle. Here's a breakdown of those candles and their meaning so you'll know exactly what's going on each Sunday morning.



1st Sunday of Advent

Color: Violet

Name: Prophecy candle

Meaning: Hope

Symbolism: Remembering the prophets

who foretold the birth of Christ

3rd Sunday of Advent

Color: Rose

Name: Shepherd's candle

Meaning: Joy

Symbolism: Remember the joy the world

experiences at Jesus' birth

2nd Sunday of Advent

Color: Violet

Name: Bethlehem candle

Meaning: Faith

Symbolism: Remembering Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem

4th Sunday of Advent

Color: Violet

Name: Angel's candle

Meaning: Peace

Symbolism: Remembering the

Angel's greeting, 'Peace on earth and good will toward men.'









TCT Recipes

> hot spiced tea <



Ingredients

1 ½ cups Tang ½ cup instant tea 1 tsp. Cinnamon ½ tsp ground cloves 1 ½ cups sugar

Directions

Pour all ingredients in a container and mix well. Keep mixed tea in sealed container such as a mason jar. When preparing, add $2 \frac{1}{2}$ tbsps. of mixed tea per 1 cup of hot water.

caramel corn 🔇

Ingredients

6 quarts popped corn
2 sticks butter
2 cups brown sugar
1/2 cup corn syrup
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Directions

Preheat oven to 250. Melt butter in heavy pot. Stir in brown sugar, corn syrup, and salt. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Remove from heat. Stir in baking soda and vanilla. Pour over popped corn. Mix well. Pour onto baking sheet and bake for 1 hour, stirring every 15 minutes.



5

ways to give back «

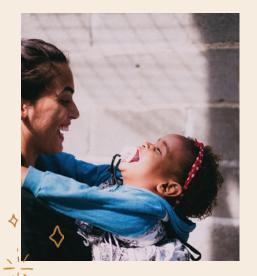
from the Director of Stewardship for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, David Kissell

Shopping and wrapping and giving and getting, stressing and rushing and wanting and having. . . this is a season where we can get a little attached to "stuff." But Advent is also an invitation to something a little different: stewardship. Stewardship is a disposition to generosity that arises from recognizing God's great gifts. And what better season to contemplate all the gifts God gives us than Advent, when we prepare for His greatest gift, Jesus? Here are five ways to grow in stewardship and give back this Advent:

Give Time with Your Family

"If you want to change the world, go home and love your family." – St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta. Be generous with your family time and find a few activities to take part in

together during Advent. In my house we have a Jesse Tree and we light the Advent wreath at dinner (if you have young children like we do, don't worry about the fights that break out over who gets to light the candle each night – it's all part of the process).



20

Give on Giving Tuesday (December 3)

Giving Tuesday, celebrated on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving (also the first Tuesday in Advent this year!), is a global day of giving. In the midst of the shopping frenzy

of Black Friday and Cyber Monday, Giving Tuesday provides the opportunity to refocus on giving by financially supporting the organizations that make a meaningful difference in people's lives. Many of our parishes, schools, and Catholic ministries and organizations will be taking part in Giving Tuesday through



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Pay for a Stranger's Bill at a Restaurant

I'll never forget the time I was out for lunch with my oldest son and a stranger paid our bill. To this day we have no idea who

he or she was, but this kind gesture left a lasting impact on me and provided a great opportunity to talk with my son about the importance of generosity and kindness. It was a testament to how much good still exists in this world. Who doesn't need that reminder these days?





Be Grateful and Give Joy

Life has its challenges, but my wife is always reminding me of how much we have to be grateful for. Giving joy to others, even in small ways, is

a great way to express our gratitude to God for His many blessings. Deliver Christmas cookies to your neighbors; go caroling with your church; buy a package of thick socks and give them out to the homeless you pass on your commute. Never miss a small opportunity to share the joy!



Give Yourself Permission to Seek Peace

In preparation for Christmas Day, sometimes the stress of the season can get the best of us. But God gave us His son so we can experience the hope,

peace, joy and love that He so desires for us. A life of stewardship starts with trusting God and knowing that He will provide in all situations. It is important to allow ourselves to embrace this trust and truly have a peaceful heart in the midst of the hustle and bustle of the weeks leading up to Christmas.

May God bless you and your family this Advent and help you to grow in stewardship as a way of life.

TCT top 9 advent movies

There's nothing quite like snuggling up under a blanket with the family and watching a great movie during a cold December night. Bonus points if you **make homemade hot cocoa or tea** and have a roaring fire in the background. Once the scene is set, here are our recommendations for what should fill your screen as you ready yourself for Jesus this Advent!

Ben Hur (1959): The full title to General Lew Wallace's novel was Ben-Hur, A Tale of the Christ. Wallace was born in Brookville, IN, (about 22 miles from Harrison) and was a general in the Civil War. The movie adaptation in 1959 is a journey of betrayal, bitterness, revenge, emptiness, searching, and redemption: all with Christ as part of the journey, but not necessarily there in the flesh.

Song of Bernadette (1943): Great for the feast of the Immaculate Conception (December 8), this biopic is about Saint Bernadette Soubirous, played by Jennifer Jones, who won an Academy Award for her performance. Watch for the great moment in the movie where St. Bernadette reveals a message:

"I am the Immaculate Conception."

The Way (2011): "Everyone loses their way, but some of us find the courage to start again. You don't choose a life...you live one." The Way, starring Dayton native and Chaminade High School graduate, Martin Sheen, is a fascinating journey on the famous pilgrimage, Camino de Santiago. The themes of Advent are prevalent:

preparation, journeying and perseverance, just to name a few.

Rudy (1993): On the surface this is an inspiring sports movie, telling the tale of Rudy Ruettiger, a young man with a dream of playing football for the Notre Dame Fighting Irish. But dig deeper and you'll see the "five foot nothing, weighing a hundred and nothing with hardly a speck of athletic ability" conquers every obstacle he faces with faith, hope, and love – and quite a bit of grit and determination. Bonus: There was one other player carried off the field since Rudy, and that was Cincinnati's Marc Edwards.



The Bells of St. Mary's (1945): Bing Crosby (you know, the one you hear crooning "White Christmas" a thousand times between November 1 and December 25) portrays Father O'Malley, a priest assigned to an old, rundown school. Watch and listen as Father O'Malley sings his way through trials and tribulations in saving the school.

A Charlie Brown Christmas (1965 TV Christmas Special): How could this classic not make the list? This 25-minute animated classic brings us the characters we love in a tale of success, failure and the importance of family and friends (and don't forget a trusty dog too!) Everyone can relate to a kid with a twinge of self-doubt, yearning for the true meaning of Christmas.

How the Grinch Stole Christmas (1966 TV Christmas Special):

December can be so filled with jingtinglers, floofloovers, tartookas, and gardookas we can forget the whole meaning of Christmas. In this delightful animated adaptation of Dr. Seuss's classic children's book, we meet the Grinch: someone who wants to stop the joy and noise, noise, noise. He slithers into "Whoville" and steals Christmas away, or so he thought. Welcome, welcome, dahoo damus Christmas Day is in our grasp, So long as we have hands to clasp.

Rick Steves' European Christmas (2005 PBS Documentary):

PBS's travel guru Rick Steves takes us to Europe through England, Wales, Germany, France, Norway, Switzerland, Austria, and Italy showing the many Christmas traditions of these countries, including: markets, school pageants, family traditions, visiting with neighbors. It all culminates at the Vatican on Christmas.

It's a Wonderful Life (1946): After years of depression and war, Frank Capra wanted to make an uplifting movie where the good guy wins. Jimmy Stewart, a popular actor newly returned from World War II after serving in the Airforce Reserves as fighter pilot, plays the lead. George Bailey is a young idealistic man who dreams about seeing the world and being an architect. Only it never happens. His dreams are derailed and he never leaves his hometown of Bedford Falls. It's a movie that inspires us to treasure every moment and reminds us of the importance and impact of every single life.





Use greenery and candles to decorate your home for Advent... and not just in your Advent wreath!

Evergreens aren't just for Christmas – they are good for winter in general, including Advent. Same with candles: don't overlook candlelight for great Advent home décor.

2 Lean into Advent celebrations in your parish that have a Christmas feeling.

Participate in a Lessons and Carols service. Celebrate the Immaculate Conception (on December 9 this year) and Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12).

Create an Advent playlist full of your favorite Advent carols.
You know that every FM station and Internet streaming service will offer 24/7 pop Christmas music. How about instead of one more rendition of "Here Comes Santa Claus," enjoy a classic Advent carol like "Sans Day Carol," or listen to the first section of Handel's "Messiah," or perhaps your favorite setting of "Ave Maria?" Listen to these on our playlist.



Use purple and pink in creative ways.

While the official liturgical colors are "violet" and "rose," purple and pink can bring an Advent look to any occasion! Do you have a purple sweater? Do you have a rose scarf? Paint your nails with Advent flair!

Poinsettias!

These flowers aren't just for Christmas Day. White and pink poinsettias can bring a wintery look to your home or office even during Advent. (Perhaps save those red ones for December 25, though.)



Creche creativity!
Don't be afraid to let your home's nativity scene change throughout the Advent/Christmas cycle. Perhaps the creche is set up on the First Sunday of Advent, but empty for a few weeks. Slowly, shepherds and animals arrive. Then, Mary and Joseph appear by the fourth week of Advent. After the Christ child arrives on December 25, leave your nativity scene up for the kings' entrance on January 6!

Change in Pace on December 17

Advent has two phases: the first focuses on Christ's return at the end of time. The second phase, which begins December 17, is more focused on Christ's first coming as a child in Bethlehem. Think of Advent as a marathon that finishes with a sprint.



Pick your favorite Advent saint.

Advent offers us so many different holy men and women as intercessors to reflect upon in our prayer. Perhaps each of the four weeks could focus on a different saint or prophet: Mary, Joseph, Isaiah, Zechariah, Elizabeth, John the Baptist and others. Learn about their lives. Decorate your home with an image of the week's saint.

9 Celebrate the Feast of St. Nicholas without making it into a "pre-Christmas."

How can we make December 6 a special, festive Advent day? What new family traditions could you start? A simple idea would be to attend Mass as a family that day and go out for breakfast or dinner.

10 When someone wishes you a Merry Christmas respond, "Merry Christmas to you, too, and Happy Advent!" Make sure you're ready to teach someone about Advent when they ask you what you mean!





One of the most beloved family Christmas traditions (which is actually celebrated during Advent) is finding and cutting down the family Christmas tree.

To help ensure you don't end up like Clark Griswold, we've put together a list of the top Christmas tree farms in the archdiocese. Get a mug of hot chocolate, grab a saw, and you might even see a few snowflakes if you're lucky!



Berninger Christmas Trees and Wreaths

Berninger Farm has been growing trees since 1955. It's a great place to cut one down or pick up a precut tree and then stop and visit the gift shop for popcorn, hot chocolate and wreaths.

Features: Pre-cut trees / cut down your own / all trees shaken and wrapped / trunk drilling / food and drinks / wreaths / gift shop

1220 Stubbs Mill Rd. / Lebanon, OH 45036 (513) 932-2780 / berningertreesandwreaths.com



Big Tree Plantation

Big Tree Plantation is nestled around a 9-acre lake. Take a wagon ride, cut down your tree, check out the nativity scene and enjoy hot chocolate.

Features: Evergreens you can plant / gift barn / ornaments / Santas around the world / life sized Fontanini nativity scene

2544 South Waynesville Rd. / Morrow, OH 45152 (513) 838-0975 / bigtreeplantation.com



John Nieman Christmas Trees

This farm is dripping with character and feels like home, which isn't surprising considering they've been providing Christmas trees for four generations! Enjoy a cup of hot chocolate and a

cookie when you visit. Cash and checks only.

Features: Gift shop / wreaths / antique John Deere tractors / American flag display / ornaments / assistance in cutting, hauling, shaking and tying your tree onto your car.

3215 Hamilton New London Rd. / Hamilton OH 45013 (513) 738-1012 / johnniemannursery.com/



Tom Mitts Christmas Trees

Can't get out into the country? Tom Mitts Christmas Trees in Newport is a great spot to get your precut tree! Prices start at \$19.95. Check them out on Facebook and look for specials before you arrive.

Features: Free tree netting and candy canes for kids / pre-cut option.

625 Monmouth St. / Newport, KY 41071 Historic Downtown District next to Peluso's Grocery (859) 341-0328 / nkychristmastrees.com



Carl & Dorothy's Christmas Tree Farm

A variety of trees to cut down including white pine, scotch pine, Norway spruce and others. Be sure to stop and get some hot chocolate and popcorn and don't let the cold stop you from visiting Young's

Dairy Farm for the best ice cream on your way out.

Features: Saw to cut down tree / sled to pull it back to barn / shaking and wrapping tree / tying to your car / gift shop / wreaths / stands and decorations / food and drink.

4968 US Route 68 North / Yellow Springs, OH 45387 Located just south of Young's Jersey Dairy (937) 708-6828 / youngschristmastreefarm.com





TCT Spotify > advent playlist <





Want some great tunes to get you in the spirit, but aren't quite in the mood for the same old Christmas music on the radio station? Check out The Catholic Telegraph's Advent playlist on Spotify!



Is someone who'll be there To sing me "Happy Birthday" For the next 100 years And it's OK if they're not perfect Well, even if they're a little broken that's alright, Cause so am I.

"Mary Did You Know?," Gary Chapman, Contemporary Christian, (1997)

Mary did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters? Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new? This child that you've delivered will soon deliver you.

"O Come O Come Emmanuel," Mannheim Steamroller, New Age, (1988)

Veni, veni Emmanuel Captivum solve Israel Qui gemit in exilio Privatus Dei Filio Gaude! Gaude! Emmanuel Nascetur pro te, Israel!

"Ave Maria" (Franz Schubert 1825), Andrea Bocelli, Classical, (1999)

Ave Maria Gratia plena Maria, gratia plena Maria, gratia plena

"Christmas at Sea," Sting, Contemporary, (2009)

The bells upon the church were rung with a mighty jovial cheer For it's just that I should tell you how (of all days in the year) This day of our adversity was blessed Christmas morn And the house above the coastguard's was the house where I was born.

"What I Really Want for Christmas," Brian Wilson, Contemporary, (2005)

What I really want at Christmas time Is peace tonight peace is hard Peace is more than just a sentimental card So be good so be kind. Look inside your hearts at Christmas time.









"When a Child is Born," Andrea Bocelli, Contemporary, (2004)

A ray of hope flickers in the sky / A tiny star lights up way up high / All across the land dawns a brand new morn / This comes to pass / when a child is born $\frac{1}{2}$

"Little Drummer Boy," Frank Sinatra, Big Band, (1964)

Little Baby pa-rum pum pum pum / I am a poor boy too, pa-rum pum pum pum / I have no gift to bring, pa-rum pum pum pum pum / That's fit to give our King pa- rum pum pum pum

"Do You Hear What I Hear?" Linda Eder (ala Lion King), Contemporary, (2000)

Said the king to the people ev'rywhere / Listen to what I say! Pray for peace, people ev'rywhere / Listen to what I say! The child, the child, Sleeping in the night. / He will bring us goodness and light

"Stille Nacht, Silent Night" Mannheim Steamroller (Instrumental), New Age, (1984)

Listen to
The TCT's
Spotify
Advent Playlist









TCT Recipes:

>brazil nut cookies<



Ingredients

½ cup butter (softened)

1 pound brown sugar

2 eggs (beaten well)

1 ¼ cups flour

1 ½ tsps. baking powder

½ tsp. salt

1 ¼ cups brazil nuts (chopped)

Directions

Mix all ingredients with a wooden spoon. Place dough in air-tight container and refrigerate overnight. To prepare, preheat oven to 325. Drop cookies on lightly greased pan and bake for 15 minutes. Cool on wire rack. "Words of wisdom, don't try making dough on a rainy day, as it will not set up properly."

strawberry jam -

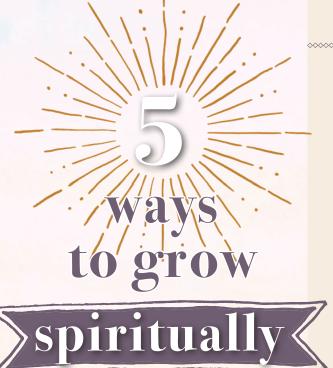
Ingredients

2 lbs. strawberries 4 cups white sugar 1/4 cup lemon juice

Directions

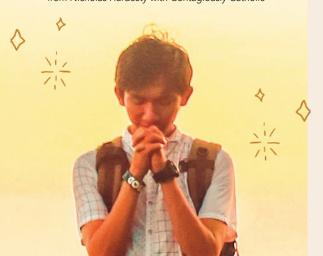
In a wide bowl, crush strawberries in batches until you have 4 cups of mashed berry. In a heavy bottomed saucepan, mix together the strawberries, sugar, and lemon juice. Stir over low heat until the sugar is dissolved. Increase heat to high, and bring the mixture to a full rolling boil. Boil, stirring often, until the mixture 220 degrees F. Transfer to hot sterile jars, leaving 1/4 inch space, and seal. Process in a water bath.



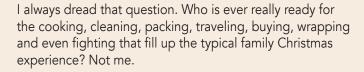


this advent

from Nicholas Hardesty with Contagiously Catholic







The good news is that Advent doesn't have to be that way. By being intentional and proactive, we can make Advent a time, not of stress and restlessness, but of peace, spiritual growth, and genuine preparation for the coming of Jesus.

Let's seize the season of Advent. Here are 5 ways to get the most out of those precious days that lead to Christmas.

1. Practice waiting.

That's what Advent is, right? A time of waiting. This means if you resent the wait, you won't get the most out of Advent.

If you're like me, you're not good at waiting, so you'll have to practice. Place yourself in situations where you have to put off what you want. Choose the longest check-out line at the grocery store. Wait until the third week of Advent to put up your Christmas tree. Be the last one to prepare a plate for dinner.

Waiting teaches us to put others first and it helps us to live in the present moment instead of anxiously awaiting the next thing.

2. Add a new prayer.

During Advent, we're preparing for the coming of the Lord. But, in prayer this happens every day! God comes to us, we come to Him, and we experience communion with the long-awaited Savior of the world. This means that bolstering your prayer life, even a little bit, is a great way to get into the Advent spirit.









Try adding a new prayer to your daily routine. It doesn't have to be anything difficult. One Advent custom involves praying the "O Antiphons," which are seven titles of the Messiah that are prayed in the evening, from Dec. 17 to Dec. 23. Alternatively, you could pray an "Act of Contrition" before going to sleep, or say to God when you wake up in the morning, "I offer you this day. Make it a great one!"

3. Create a sacred space.

A sacred space is an area set aside for prayer. During the busyness of life, this space reminds us: Prayer is important. God is near. There is peace here.

Your sacred space can be as small as a table in the corner. During Advent, cover it with a violet tablecloth and put your wreath there. You could also include a standing crucifix, an open Bible, a saint statue and some small icons.

When Advent is over, don't take it all down. Change out a few things and you can use it to celebrate all the liturgical seasons!

4. Share your faith.

Faith grows even as it is given away. This means that, while talking about your faith may not come naturally, it's a great way to grow spiritually during Advent.

Start small. This Advent, be on the lookout for one person a week you could share your faith with. If someone is sad or overwhelmed, pray with them right then and there. Do a kind deed for someone and then tell them that Jesus loves them. Pray before meals at a restaurant. Make the Sign of the Cross in public.

Religion is typically a taboo subject when families gather for the holidays. But if you share you faith with love, you have the potential to warm hearts and grow in your identity as a disciple of Jesus.

5. Serve others.

While you're on the lookout for people to share your faith with, also look for ways to be kind, especially to strangers. Service is perfect for Advent. At a time when consumerism and materialism attempt to focus us in on ourselves, service, kindness, and charity turn our gaze towards the other.

The sky's the limit on how you can do this. Volunteer at a soup kitchen. Buy a present from your parish's Giving Tree for those in need. Visit an elderly neighbor and ask about her favorite Christmas memories. Help your parents decorate their house. Random acts of kindness make Advent really Advent.









Family Traditions to celebrate during duent

If you've got kids and it's the month of December, let's just be honest: It's all about the kids. And while Advent is a special opportunity to grow in your faith, it's also a special opportunity to spend quality time together with your family, introduce them to new experiences, and make memories that will last forever.

Performances

Awaited

Aronoff Center

December 20 – 23

Experience the work

Experience the wonder of Christmas in a family-friendly production that reminds you why Christmas is the ultimate season of hope!

Visit the website.

A Christmas Carol

Playhouse in the Park, Marx Theatre November 27 – December 29 Charles Dickens' timeless classic reminds all of us that, in the end, life is about becoming who God wants us to be, and not what we do or what we have.

Visit the website.

The Nutcracker - Cincinnati Ballet

Music Hall December 19-29

Visit the website.

The Nutcracker - Dayton Performing Arts Alliance

Schuster Center December 14 -23 Visit the website.

Nativity Displays Annual Nativities Display

Maria Stein Shrine
December 1 – January 7
This collection features modern
nativities including one made
completely out of kitchen utensils and
another glazed with horse hair.

Visit the website.

At The Manger

University of Dayton
December 2 – January 12
Every year, 6,000 volunteer hours are
put into this display of over 3,500
nativities from around the world!

Visit the website.

All the Lights PNC Festival of Lights

Cincinnati Zoo November 16 – January 4 With 37 years running and three million lights, you can't go wrong! **Visit the website.**

Christmas Nights of Lights

Coney Island

November 8 – January 5

This is a drive through event. Watch the lights dance in time to the music when you synchronize your car radio to their station.

Visit the website.

The Legendary Lights of Historic

Clifton Mill

November 29 – December 30 Rated as one of USA Today's Readers Choice 10 Best in 2018. The people have spoken! Visit the website.

North Pole Express

Lebanon Mason Monroe Railroad Select dates in November & December

Think *The Polar Express*. Santa, elves, hot chocolate, jingle bells. The works. **Visit the website.**

Holy Days and Events St. Nicholas Day

December 6

Learn about the real St. Nicholas. Fill shoes with fruit or coins. Collect food and send it to a local food pantry.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

December 9 (this year on Monday). Say a family rosary (joyful mysteries would be a good idea!). Pray for those who are expecting a child, or want to have a child. Visit a nursing home or a family friend who you haven't seen in a long time.

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

December 12

Have Latin American food for dinner.

Find a candle of Our Lady of Guadalupe and place it as your centerpiece. Have your older kids read the story of Juan Diego.

Family Prayer for the Final Day of Advent

December 24

During breakfast, pray the Canticle of Zechariah, father of St. John the Baptist:

"Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; for he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hand of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life. You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to give his



people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins. In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Advent Wreath

Buy an Advent wreath, or make your own! Read a little bit of scripture each night as you light the candles, or sing a verse of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel!"

Write a Letter to the Christ Child

On the first Sunday of Advent, instead of writing a letter to Santa, write a letter to the Christ Child.

Advent Reconciliation Service

Many parishes have an Advent Reconciliation Service. Use this day or evening to spend time at church and receive the sacrament of reconciliation. Prior to the service, take some time at home and lead an examination of conscience. Check out www.usccb.org as a resource to prepare for the sacrament. The list contains examination for children, young people, married couples, etc.



TCT Recipes

> festive cocktail <



Ingredients

5 ice cubes

1 ounce pear vodka

4 ounces cranberry juice

Directions

Place ice cubes into a rocks glass. Pour in vodka and cranberry juice. Stir and serve.

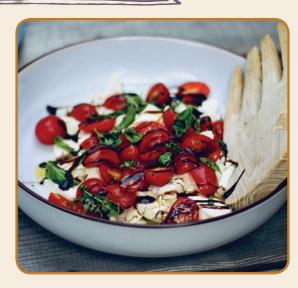
caprese appetizer

Ingredients

20-30 grape tomatoes
10oz cubed mozzarella cheese
2 tbsp. olive oil
fresh basil leaves
salt and pepper to taste
toothpicks

Directions

Mix all ingredients together in a bowl. Skewer tomatoes, cheese and basil leaves on toothpicks and serve.



The Catholic Telegraph gift guide

good for the community, good for the earth, good for the soul

There's no place like home for the holidays. By home we mean the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, the earth we all share, and our eternal home in heaven.

With home in mind, we have curated a list of gifts that are



made locally





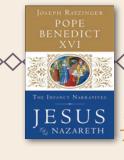
🖟 made ethically 🛮 🖊 made to do good.







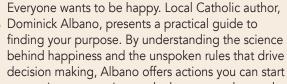




to read



The Fundamental Theory of Happiness



now to invest your time and talents toward everyday happiness.

\$14.95 Ascension Press



The Cliff

Dayton based Catholic writer, Mark Phillips, and illustrator, Terri Melia Hamlin, team up to tell the story of a man who finds happiness with stuff. When that happiness wears out, he gathers more stuff. But the more he has, the more he wants, until stuff obscures his view of true happiness.

\$14.67 **Etsy.com**



Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives

The final volume in the Jesus of Nazareth series by Pope Benedict XVI. The Infancy Narratives tells of Jesus' birth, infancy and childhood. Make the Holy Family's story part of your family's story this Advent.



The Christmas Plains



Joseph Bottum, the former editor of First Things magazine, reflects upon the wild joys and emotions of the season while growing up on the South Dakota plains. Like the season of Advent itself, his stories are at times sweet and comic, and sentimental and serious.

\$5.25 / Amazon.com



A Very Fiona Christmas

Celebrate Cincinnati's favorite hippo as she discovers the magic of the season. For each book purchased at the Blue Manatee Literacy Project, one is donated to a disadvantaged reader.

\$17.99 / BlueManatee.org

to wear



Wearable Blessings



Religious jewelry handwoven in Bosnia, hand beaded in Cambodia, or prayerfully handmade in Mexico. Wearable blessings empower the women who make them and those who wear them. They act as a beautiful reminder of our true calling to sainthood.

MySaintMyHero.com



Circle Circle Jewelry

Cincinnati-made delicate and feminine jewelry meant to elevate your everyday wear.

Etsy.com



Sock Religious

Pope Francis for your feet, JPII for your shoe. Sock Religious offers a fun way to wear your faith with every step you take.

\$14 / SockReligious.com



Catholic Cufflinks



Cufflinks, tie bars, pins. These locally handcrafted 🖊 pieces allow you to subtly sharpen up your look and boldly prepare to defend your faith.

Olarmory.com



to warm





Drinking Chocolate Mix

Cincinnati Chocolate makers, Maverick Chocolate Company, offer a way to enjoy world-class chocolate at home. Just add milk to their 65% dark drinking chocolate.

\$20 / MayerickChocolate.com



Mystic Monk Coffee

Java Bell Jingle may be just the joe to get you going in the morning and get you ready for Christmas. Mystic Monk beans are roasted by Carmelite Monks in a mountain valley in Wyoming. Their roasts will impress the coffee snob--err connoisseur--on your list and also supports our favorite morning Catholic radio show, The SonRise Morning Show.

MysticMonkCoffee.com



Guadalupe Roastery

Paying more per pound than Fair Trade and treating coffee farmers as partners, Guadalupe Roastery empowers farmers to support themselves, their families and their communities. It's coffee for the common good.

\$13.95/lb GuadalupeRoastery.com





to nurture



Bonnets for your Babe



Local Catholic seamstress and designer, Kathleen, combines her faith and handiwork in a line of saint inspired bonnets and teethers. She uses only organic and upcycled fabrics.



MeadowCressBoutique.com



Milk'd Nutrition



Support the new mom or mom-to-be in your life with organic, nutritious and delicious eats. Local motherdaughter duo combine their passions and expertise to help breastfeeding mothers from day one.

MilkdNutrition.com

to inspire



Monk Manual



A planner designed by Cincinnati native, Steven Lawson. Combining the wisdom of monastic life and the science of modern psychology, the Monk Manual provides a daily system for ultimate productivity, purpose and peace.

\$38 / MonkManual.com



Advent + Christmas Devotional

Your daily companion to deepen your connection with Christ through the Advent and Christmas seasons. Explore Jesus' lineage and learn how it leads to you. \$25 BlessedIsShe.net



Advent Candle Kit

Help your children appreciate the patience and preparation of the season by making the candles that will burn all advent long.

\$16.50 HolyHeroes.com



to learn



Sarah Center Classes



Encourage someone's creative ambition. Sarah Center, 📜 a part of St. Francis Seraph Ministries, offers lessons in sewing, quilting, card-making and cooking for the family, to name a few.

sfsministries.org



Macaron Making

These French cookies are notoriously tricky to master. But Macaron Bar teaches you the art, science, and secrets to success.

\$95 Macaron-Bar.com



Winter Wreath Making

Join local florist, Eve Floral Co., to bring the beauty of winter inside. Adorn your dinner table with a handmade Advent wreath or deck your front door to welcome weary travelers.

\$90 EveFloralCo.com





to care



Beauty set

Self care that also cares for others. With handmade and natural bath and body products, Gifts for the Journey gives the gift of confidence in your own skin. They also give meaningful work to survivors of human sex trafficking in the Greater Milwaukee area.

\$20 / GiftsfortheJourney.com



Deerhaus Gift Box

Care for creation this Christmas. Support a local business and empower a loved one to live with less waste. This gift box includes simple tools for sustainably prepping, storing and toting your food. \$60 / DeerhausDecor.com



Catholic Beard Balm

What makes a beard balm Catholic? Unconsecrated chrism oil, of course. This all natural balm does more than condition your facial hair (although it does that well). It serves as a daily reminder to courageously carry your faith. All proceeds to go support Catholic Youth Ministry.

\$22 / CatholicBalm.co

to hold



(a plant)

Local potter, Christie Goodfellow, combines artistry and utility in her practical handmade goods. Let it snow outside; let it grow inside.

\$40 / cg-ceramics.com



(your drink)

Local artist Susannah Tisue combines her love of illustration and pottery in her whimsical, yet sturdy wares. Choose from more than 90 illustrations (from a magnolia to a moose to music hall) to adorn your new favorite mug. Pro tip: while all of SKT's creations are customizable, shop her Findlay Market booth to take home a piece today. You can also shop her discounted seconds any time at Queen City Clay.

\$49 / sktceramics.com



(your coat)

Make your entryway more welcoming by offering guests a place to hang their winter coats. This simple wooden coat hook is locally crafted and comes in a variety of finishes.

\$15 / SimpleWoodGoods.com



(your rosary)

Sheen rosaries have a two-fold mission: to feed hungry children in Uganda and to make the rosary appealing to men. This handmade leather case helps you keep your rosary close.

\$10 / SheenRosaries.com



(everything else)

A tote bag's uses are endless. This tote bag helps haul your physical load and your mental load. Adorned with five mental health intercessors, know you are never alone. St Terese, pray for us!

\$16 / BrickHouseintheCity.com



You love me as You find me.







to imagine



Dolls from Heaven

Inspire playtime with the stories of the saints. Choose from Mary of Nazareth, Joan of Arc, Therese of Lisieux, or Pope John Paul II. Each 18" doll comes with a book.

\$105 / DollsFromHeaven.com



Saint Cards

Play the game to know the saints. A fun way for the whole family to embrace the mission of the domestic church.

\$35.99 / SaintCards.com



Advent & Christmas Coloring Book

Help your child celebrate every Sunday and Feast Day this Advent and Christmas season. \$6.95 / HolyHeroes.com

to shop



Local places to shop for kids:

Styled by Mama in Over the Rhine King Arthur's Court in Oakley Gumdrop in Covington Blue Turtle Toys in Dayton













Support Catholic Churches, Schools & Missions

Click here to read the full listing!

Through January 1

Life Size Nativity with Farm Animals

St. Francis Seraph Courtyard Liberty & Vine Sts., Cincinnati, $1 - 7 \, \text{p.m.}$

International Christmas Display, Franciscan Friars Christian Moerlein Events Center

1621 Moore St., Cincinnati Wed. – Thus. 4 –10 p.m.; Fri. 4 – 11 p.m.; Sat. 12 – 11 p.m.; Sun. 1 – 6 p.m.

November 30

Breakfast with Santa St. Christopher Church 435 E. National Rd., Vandalia 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Christmas Tree Sale

St. Albert the Great at Stag Field 3033 Far Hills Ave., Kettering Beginning Nov. 30: Wed. – Fri 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.; Sat. 12:00 - 8 p.m., Sun. 12:00 - 6 p.m.

December 1

Advent Wreath Workshop St. Charles Borromeo Church 4500 Ackerman Blvd., **98** Kettering, 9:30 – 11 a.m.

Breakfast with St. Nicholas St. Ann Church

2936 Galbraith Rd., Cincinnati, 10 a.m. (Reservations required)

Visit with St. Nicholas Guardian Angels Church 6531 Beechmont Ave., Cincinnati, 11 a.m.

Advent Fair

St. John the Evangelist Church 7121 Plainfield Rd., Cincinnati 12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Advent Lessons & Carols

Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains 8th & Plum Sts., Cincinnati, 3 p.m.

Christmas Concert

St. Julie Billiart Church 224 Dayton St., Hamilton, 4 p.m.

Advent Vespers

Church of the Transfiguration 972 S. Miami St., West Milton, 7 p.m.

December 3

Mary's Role in Salvation **History Presentation** Our Lady of Lourdes Church 3450 Lumardo Ave., Cincinnati, 7 p.m.

Journey to Bethlehem

St. Remy Church 108 E. Main St., Russia, 6:30 p.m.

December 4

Advent Women's Evening St. Bartholomew Church 9375 Winton Rd., Cincinnati, 6:30 p.m. \$20

December 5

Young Adult Formation: Holiday Baking and Hospitality

Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains 325 W 8th St., Cincinnati 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Preparing for Christ Advent Program

St. Teresa of Avila Church 1175 Overlook Ave., Cincinnati, 6:30 p.m.

December 6

Fiat: Mary's YES to God. St. Albert the Great 3033 Far Hills Ave., Kettering 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Advent Lessons & Carols The Athenaeum of Ohio

6616 Beechmont Ave., Cincinnati, 7:30 p.m.

December 7

Breakfast in Bethlehem

St. Margaret of York 9499 Columbia Rd., Loveland, 8 a.m.

Christmas Bazaar

(with a Children's Workshop) Carroll High School 4524 Linden Ave., Dayton, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Christmas Bazaar

Immaculate Conception 228 W. Anthony St., Celina, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Breakfast with Santa

Queen of Peace Church 2550 Millville Ave., Hamilton 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Fair Trade Sale (with a visit from Santa!)

University of Dayton Curran Place 1700 S. Patterson Blvd., Dayton, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Breakfast with Santa

St. Brigid Church 312 Fairground Rd., Xenia, 9 a.m.

December 7

Breakfast in Bethlehem St. Philip Church 944 E. US 22 & 3, Morrow 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Santa Breakfast or Dinner

Assumption Church 7711 Joseph St., Mount Healthy, Seating Times: Breakfast at 10 a.m.; Dinner, 5 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 8, 10:15 a.m. (Reservations required)

St. Nicholas Celebration

Maria Stein Shrine 2291 St. Johns Rd., Maria Stein, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. (\$10 RSVP required)

December 8

Live Nativity
Holy Trinity Church
272 Bainbridge St., Dayton,
1p.m. – 3p.m.

Glenmary Christmas Concert Corpus Christi Church

2014 Springdale Rd., Cincinnati, 2 p.m.

Live Nativity

St. Charles Borromeo Church 4500 Ackerman Blvd., Kettering, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Yes, Virginia there is a St. Nicholas

Maria Stein Shrine 2291 St. Johns Rd., Maria Stein, 5:30 p.m. (\$30 RSVP required)

December 10Santa Shop

St. Bartholomew 9375 Winton Rd., Cincinnati 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. **Our Lady of Guadalupe**

St. Teresa of the Child Jesus 1827 N. Limestone St., Springfield 6 p.m. Mass in Spanish

Advent Lessons & Carols

St. Christopher Church 435 E. National Rd., Vandalia, 7 p.m.

December 11

Stations of the Crib

St. John the Baptist 753 S. Hyatt St., Tipp City After 7 p.m. Mass

December 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe Special Celebration

St. Maximilian Church 5720 Hamilton Mason Rd., Liberty Twp, 6 p.m.

Taize Prayer Service

Good Shepherd Church 8815 E. Kemper Rd., Cincinnati, 7 p.m.

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

St. Ann Church 2936 Galbraith Rd., Cincinnati Marian Consecration at 7 p.m.

December 14

Rorate Mass

Old St. Mary's Church 123 E 13th St., Cincinnati 6:45 a.m.

Advent Retreat

Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception 2300 S. Smithville Rd., Dayton 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. (\$10 RSVP required) **Breakfast in Bethlehem**

St. John the Evangelist Church 9080 Cincinnati Dayton Rd., West Chester, 9 a.m.

December 14 – December 30 72nd Comboni Nativity

Experience

Comboni Missionaries 1318 Nagel Rd., Cincinnati, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

December 15

Happy Birthday Jesus! St. Ignatius of Loyola Church 5222 North Bend Rd.,

5222 North Bend I Cincinnati, 1 p.m.

Advent Lessons & Carols

St. Margaret of York Church 9499 Columbia Rd., Loveland, 2 p.m.

Advent Lessons & Carols

St. Columbkille Church 73 N Mulberry St., Wilmington, 5 p.m.

Tribute to Jesus Christmas

St. John the Baptist Church 5361 Dry Ridge Rd., Cincinnati, 7 p.m.

December 16

Santa Shop

St. Bartholomew Church 9375 Winton Rd., Cincinnati, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Advent Concert with Mike Davis

St. Joseph Church 25 E. Harrison Ave., North Bend, 7 p.m.



December 18

Musical Oratory of Advent

Old St. Mary's Church 123 E 13th St., Cincinnati 6:30 p.m.

Advent Lessons & Carols

St. Columban Church 894 Oakland Rd., Loveland, 7 p.m.

December 19

Hope in the Cradle Concert

St. Charles Borromeo 4500 Ackerman Blvd., Kettering, 7 p.m.

Christmas Pageant

St. Gertrude Church 6543 Miami Ave., Madeira, 7 p.m.

Christmas Concert

Good Shepherd Church 8815 E. Kemper Rd., Cincinnati, 7:30 p.m.

December 20

Christmas Pageant

St. Gertrude Church 6543 Miami Ave., Madeira, 9 a.m.

Christmas Concert

St. Rose Church 2501 Riverside Rd., Cincinnati, 7:30 p.m. (Tickets (513) 871-1162)

All Sundays in Advent

Advent Vespers

St. Maximilian Kolbe Church 5720 Hamilton Mason Rd., Liberty Twp, 3 p.m.



Archdiocese of Cincinnati

advent genance

services

December 2

St. Maximilian Kolbe Church 5720 Hamilton Mason Rd., *7p.m.*

December 3

St. Susanna Church 616 Reading Rd., Mason, *7 p.m.*

December 4

Church of the Transfiguration 972 S. Miami St., West Milton, 6:45 p.m.

December 5

Our Lady of the Visitation Church 3172 South Rd, Cincinnati, 7 p.m.

St. Paul Church 308 Phillips St., Yellow Springs, *7p.m.*

December 9

St. Vincent Ferrer Church 7754 Montgomery Rd., Cincinnati, 6 p.m.

December 10

Our Lady of Grace Church 533 Odlin Ave., Dayton, 1:30 p.m.

St. Joseph Church 25 E. Harrison Ave., North Bend 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.



St. Martin of Tours 3720 St. Martin Pl., Cincinnati, 7 p.m.

Guardian Angels Parish 6531 Beechmont Ave., Cincinnati, 7 p.m.

Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Church 2300 S. Smithville Rd., Dayton, 7 p.m.

Queen of Martyrs Church 4134 Cedar Ridge Rd., Dayton, 7 p.m.

St. Augustine Church 5715 Lytle Rd., Waynesville, 7 p.m.

St. Charles Borromeo Church 4500 Ackerman Blvd., Kettering, 7 p.m.

St. Columban Church 894 Oakland Rd., Loveland, *7 p.m.*

St. Dominic Church 4551 Delhi Pike, Cincinnati, *7 p.m.*

St. Vivian Church 7600 Winton Rd., Cincinnati, 7 p.m.



December 11

St. Bernard Church 71 W. Main St., Burkettesville, 7 p.m.

St. Columban Church 894 Oakland Rd., Loveland, 7 p.m.

St. Susanna Church 616 Reading Rd., Mason, 7 p.m.

December 12

St. John the Baptist Church 753 S. Hyatt St., Tipp City, 6:30 p.m.

St. Louis Church 15 Star Rd., North Star, 7 p.m.

December 16

St. William Church 4108 E 8th St., Cincinnati, 6 p.m.

Queen of Peace Church 2550 Millville Ave., Hamilton, 6:30 p.m.

St. John the Evangelist 9080 Cincinnati Dayton Rd., West Chester, 7 p.m.

December 17

Our Lady of Sacred the Heart Church

177 Siebenthaler Ave., Reading, 7 p.m.

St. Angela Merici Church 130 Stone Alley, Fayetteville, 7 p.m.

St. Christopher Church 435 E. National Rd., Vandalia, 7 p.m.

St. Rita Church 5401 N Main St., Dayton, 7 p.m.

December 18

St. Ignatius of Loyola Church 5222 North Bend Rd., Cincinnati, *7 p.m.*

St. Albert the Great Church 3033 Far Hills Ave., Kettering, 7 p.m.

St. Columbkille Church73 N Mulberry St., Wilmington, *7 p.m.* **St. Henry Church**272 E. Main St., Saint Henry, *7 p.m.*

St. Philip the Apostle Church 922 E. US 22 & 3, Morrow, 7 p.m.

December 19

St. George Church 509 E State St., Georgetown, 7 p.m.

St. Nicholas Church 128 Church St., Osgood, *7 p.m.*